

Reagan? We have heard that a lot from the other side.

Well, let us just recount a few of the Reagan years so we can get this in perspective. Remember, President Reagan promised the people of the United States of America that he would balance the budget by 1984. Instead, his administration worked hand in glove with Congress to pile up the greatest amount of debt ever seen for this Nation. It took us 200 years to amass the first \$900 billion of debt, but in a mere 8 years, President Reagan's administration more than tripled the national debt to over \$3 trillion. Yes, they talked a great game about reducing the deficit and balancing the budget, but they never ever submitted a balanced budget. They never ever even submitted a budget within \$100 billion of balance.

And then finally in the twilight years, in the last year of the Reagan administration, Budget Director Miller submitted a list of what he said Ronald Reagan would have used the line-item veto on if only he had that power.

The deficit in 1988 was \$150 billion. After tremendous efforts downtown at the White House, President Reagan and Mr. Miller came up with a list of \$1 billion in cuts that they would have made had they had the line-item veto. So instead of \$150 billion deficit, it would have been \$149 billion, and, of course, not a penny would have come from the Pentagon, the largest single source of general fund spending.

Last year we passed a constitutional version of a line-item veto called an enhanced rescission. This year we have before us an empty gesture. Clearly, the bill that will be voted on finally today, the Stenholm amendment, the bill we passed last year having been defeated in a vote last Friday on the floor of this House, is unconstitutional, and will be thrown out by the courts.

So if what we want is a grandly symbolic empty gesture, then vote "yes" on final passage today.

Happy birthday, of course, to the ex-President.

His legacy of a \$3 trillion will stand as a monument for generations of Americans to come. I would hope this House would begin to take real steps toward cutting the Federal deficit and the Federal debt and no more gestures. Do not vote today for this empty gesture.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. BAKER] is recognized during morning business for 1½ minutes.

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, in response, today President Clinton just introduced his budget, and if you heard, the previous speaker said the last 2 years of Ronald Reagan was \$150 billion in deficit and \$155. Today's budget introduced by President Clinton the deficit is \$210 billion.

The first 4 years of the Clinton administration will show a deficit of over \$1 trillion. This budget is not balanced.

But it is not the President's fault. It was not the President's fault for the last 26 years. Pick your favorite, was it Carter, was it Reagan, was it Ford, was it Clinton? Who is your favorite for unbalancing the budget? And the answer is this Congress. This Congress has had its foot on the accelerator for 26 years.

Never once has this Congress balanced the budget in 26 years. Never once has this Congress balanced the budget in 26 years.

Well, today is President Ronald Reagan's 84th birthday, and today we are going to give President Reagan and President Clinton a little present, and that is the line-item veto, because we need new tools. We have shown we cannot balance the budget ourselves.

Last week this Republican Congress passed the balanced budget amendment. This week we are going to give the President, whomever the President is, the tool to help us balance the budget with the line-item veto.

Let us remember it is not the President, it is the Congress. And we are going to allow the Executive and Congress to sit down together to continue to work toward a balanced budget in 2002 so that our grandchildren will not have to pay for the Government we use and are afraid to pay for.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE LINE-ITEM VETO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KNOLLENBERG] is recognized during morning business for 1½ minutes.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the line-item veto which will effectively give the President the ability to strike out pork-barrel projects from otherwise good legislation.

The line-item veto will end the "Christmas Tree" practice of tacking on pet projects to wholly unrelated legislation—burying the details away from the public's eye.

Last year and in 1993 we saw this practice expand to an unprecedented level. The most flagrant abuse was after the city of Los Angeles was devastated by the earthquake. Congress eventually passed the emergency supplemental earthquake assistance bill, but not before slipping in \$10 million for a train station in New York, \$1.3 million for Hawaiian sugar cane mills, and \$20 million to add employees to the FBI in West Virginia.

This list of abuses goes on and on and the taxpayers are stuck with the bill and asked to pay more of their fair share. I don't think they would think that their share should include \$1.1 million for a national pig research facility in Iowa or \$35 million to eradicate screw worms in Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, tacking on these types of pet projects has become a runaway train and the American taxpayers are getting taken for a ride toward economic disaster. Let us keep the train on the tracks.

I urge all of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to support this critical piece of legislation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. LINDER] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Open our eyes, O gracious God, so that we may see the magnificence of Your creation; open our minds to the promises of Your true and lively word; open our ears to hear the words of others and to listen to their thoughts and experiences; open our intellect so we can understand the mysteries of knowledge and the fruits of wisdom, and open our hearts so we can love and forgive, so we can hope and have faith, so we can be thankful for all Your good gifts of life and the blessings of each new day. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House is approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alabama [Mr. EVERETT] will please come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. EVERETT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES TO MEET TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following